

SOLECISM

CUSA'S NEWSLETTER

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Commerce Session Changed

By Jim Griffin

The Commerce Faculty of Concordia is again trying to institute a ten week Summer Session, over the objections of students, after being blocked making a similar move last year.

The ten week session would replace the two four-and-a-half week sessions that are currently in effect.

A motion proposed by Concordia University Students' Association (CUSA) representatives last year at Senate placed a moratorium on any changes to the structure of the Commerce Summer Session after it was unilaterally announced by the administration. The Rector, who is also Chairman of Senate, ruled that the motion was not absolutely binding on the Faculty but, at the same time, it was not something that should be taken lightly.

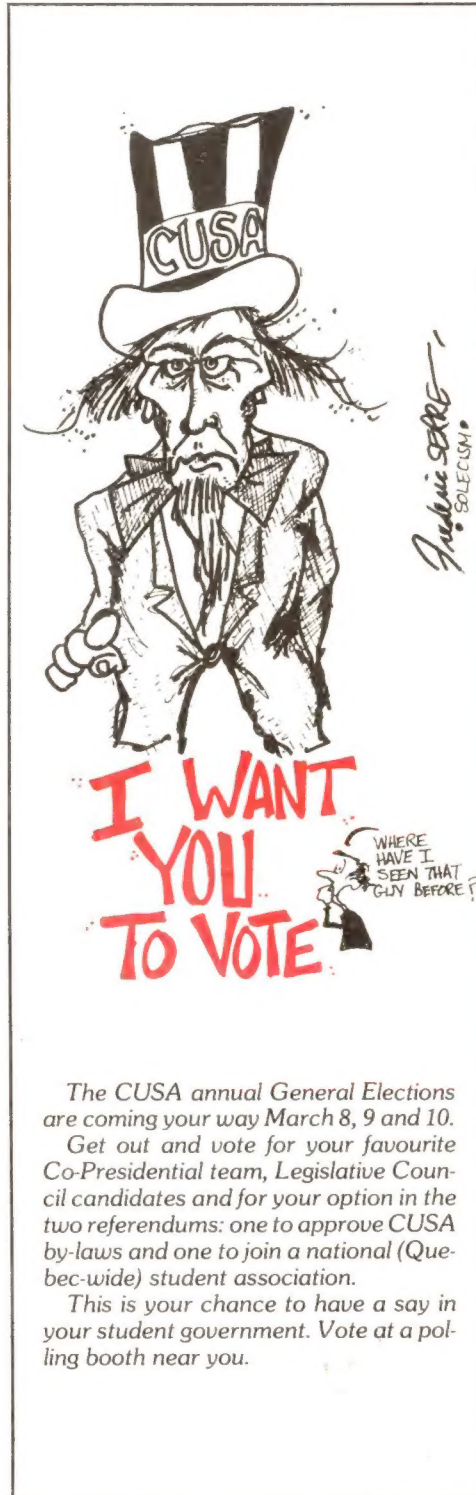
After some hesitation, The Faculty of Commerce and Administration announced the change would be postponed for one year.

The Commerce Faculty demonstrated that it learned at least one lesson from this by starting its advertising campaign much earlier in the academic year and thus avoiding the complaint of 'railroading'.

The Faculty purchased half-page ads in *The Link* which declared that the summer session had been changed to a single ten-week session. However, students and faculty still have not had a proper opportunity to express their opinions on the change.

The subject was discussed at the Commerce Faculty Council, but only after the decision had already been made. At that time the discussion centered on ways to placate students who were enraged because it seemed as

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The CUSA annual General Elections are coming your way March 8, 9 and 10.

Get out and vote for your favourite Co-Presidential team, Legislative Council candidates and for your option in the two referendums: one to approve CUSA by-laws and one to join a national (Quebec-wide) student association.

This is your chance to have a say in your student government. Vote at a polling booth near you.

Students Support Security

By Paul Gott

A recent study done by a group of Concordia students suggests that most students on the downtown campus don't want drug dealers on campus and support added security measures, even the asking of students for their IDs.

The study, conducted by Joe Mardini, Maria De Bellis, Silvana Pacetti, Anna Di Nobile, Lisette De Luca and Michael Lockhart, was originally done for a course at Concordia and recently obtained by CUSA. It consists of the results of a survey of 300 students conducted in the Hall building last semester.

Some of the findings, such as the support for added security measures, were quite unexpected and contrary to opinions of students that were well-publicized in *The Link* and other Concordia publications at the time the measures were being actively enforced.

"It seemed before the survey that there was a negative attitude towards the security measures by the students," according to Joe Mardini, one of the conductors of the survey and an employee at Reggie's, "But students don't want drugs on campus. They don't want to deal with the problems."

The survey, distributed in November, presented the following conclusions: That most students were aware of increased security and supported it; that a vast majority of students had not been asked to present their IDs, and most of those who had did not believe that guards had been discriminatory in asking them; and that most students agreed there was a drug problem at Concordia and were opposed to the purchasing of drugs on campus.

The report goes on to recommend that Reggie's, identified as the source of the drug problem on the downtown campus,

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INSIDE: Disarmament Conference at Concordia

Of Cutbacks and Cruise Missiles

by John Kinloch

The deterioration of services at Concordia due to cutbacks is something that is well documented. Indeed, it is something that we experience daily. Crowded libraries, cancelled courses and a general malaise undermine the ability of this university to fulfill its mandate, that is to say, provide an atmosphere conducive to quality education. The present crisis poses a serious threat to the future of both the Quebec and Canadian university systems.

Most of us tend to shrug our shoulders and blame the whole situation on the economic recession (depression?) which is ravaging the entire world.

Meanwhile, in Canada and elsewhere, "defense" budgets grow larger year after year. According to the Stockholm Peace Research Institute, \$600 billion a year is spent on defense. That works out to \$1 million a minute.

Canada, which has traditionally been thought of as a peaceful, non-militarized nation, ranked eighth in the world in military expenditures between the years 1960 and 1976, outspending such countries as Japan, India and Iran. Recent commitments on the part of Canada to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to increase "real" spending on defense reveal our commitment to dutifully follow the rest of the world down the dead-end path of militarization.

"I didn't understand the world, so I destroyed it."

Graffiti
Corner of Granville
and Broadway
Vancouver

Our priorities as a nation seem very clear. Students in Concordia and across the country are told that there is no money to alleviate the problem of deteriorating services. Pensioners are told to make do with incomes that continually fall short of inflation. Yet when Litton Systems of Canada Ltd. asks for money to help produce the guidance system for the Cruise missile the federal government sees fit to come forward with



interest-free loans and outright grants totalling \$50 million.

The federal government, two years ago, committed itself to buying 130 F-18 fighter planes at a cost of over \$3 billion.

The argument here is not that the sorry state of our university is due solely to Cruise missiles, F-18s and large defense budgets. It is, rather, that these examples are concrete manifestations of a country with misplaced and ill-conceived priorities, a society which through its actions is preparing for global war and at the same time depriving its youth of quality education.

The war has already started and students have been among the first casualties. An unequivocal, unified stand by students in favour of disarmament and action to back that stand is required to change the suicidal course this society has charted for itself.

Q-PIRG

The Quebec-Public Interest Research Group (Q-PIRG) of Concordia is a member group of CUSA and is open to the participation of all Concordia students.

Present issues under study by Q-PIRG include an examination of the national mammography program, the possibility of setting up a province-wide Citizens' Utility Board, and disarmament.

For more information, contact Q-PIRG at 879-4510, or through the CUSA offices.

Disarmament Conference At Concordia

By Paul Gott

Concordia will host a student conference on disarmament the weekend of March 12 and 13.

The conference, to be held in the Hall building downtown, is the result of a cooperative effort between three student groups: the Quebec Public Interest Group (Q-PIRG) of Concordia, Ploughshares of McGill and le Groupe de Désarmement from the University of Montreal.

"We want to examine the role of universities in military research," says John Kinloch, one of the conference organizers and a member of Q-PIRG, "We also want to discuss how best to sensitize students to the issues - how to best spread necessary information."

The first day of the conference has been organized to inform students of the issues. There will be six speakers (3 english, 3 french) as well as several films and the handing out of relevant documentation. The second day is set aside for workshops where students can voice their opinions on the various aspects of disarmament, listen to others' views and try to reach a constructive consensus.

"We hope that some structure will remain after the conference is over," says Kinloch, "Personally, I hope that some formal organization will result that can act on the issue of disarmament in the future."

While all students are welcome, student groups from across the province have been invited to attend the conference to try to get individual associations involved in the issue, says Kinloch. The response from groups has been mixed.

"People have been interested, but we don't know how many will come," he says.

Concordia, however, was not chosen as the site of the conference because of its reputation, location, or any more altruistic reasons. "We're on a tight budget and Concordia offered us the best deal," says Kinloch.

Conference Schedule

March 12/12 mars

9:00-10:00

INTRODUCTION & FILMS

Hall Building Room H-110

If You Love This Planet, Souvenirs de guerre

10:00-12:00

CONFERENCES

• J.M. Pearson, physique (université de Montréal)

"La course aux armements: origine et actualité"

• D. Peschard, physique (Cégep Maison-neuve)

"ABC de la course aux armements"

12:00-13:00

DINER/LUNCH

13:00-14:00

CONFERENCE

• Conférencier(-ère) à déterminer:

"Désarmement et développement"

14:00-15:00

• F.H. Knelman, sciences and human affairs (Concordia)

"The Mythology of U.S. Nuclear Strategies and Canadian Complicity"

15:00-15:30

PAUSE/BREAK

15:30-16:30

• J. Vallacott, Institut Simone de Beauvoir

"A Structure for Peace"

16:30 - 17:30

• P. Arnopoulos, sciences politiques (Concordia)

"Recherches pour la paix"

20:00

DANSE/PARTY

March 13/13 mars

10:30-11:30

INTRODUCTION

Student disarmament groups introduction. Timetable. Agenda modifications.

11:30-12:30

STUDENTS AND THE ARMS RACE

Workshops:

• Civil service, military service and the economic crisis.

• War research or peace research? (Students' involvement in military research. Peace and conflict studies programs.)

• Consciousness-raising or saturation? (How to raise student consciousness on the disarmament question.)

12:30-13:30

PLENIERE/PLENARY

13:30-14:00

PAUSE/BREAK

14:00-15:00

THE FUTURE

• Workshop discussions on future strategies and actions for disarmament (eg. information network, demonstration...)

15:00-16:00

PLENIERE/PLENARY

16:00

CONCLUSION

Commerce Session Changed

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though their graduation would be delayed by the change.

With two sessions of four-and-a-half weeks, students can take a pre-requisite in the first session and a follow-up course in the second session.

The Faculty was generous in its offers to let students take courses concurrently. But many people wonder how long the generosity will last once the dust has settled.

By far the most important item that the Faculty has failed to consider is the interests of their students. The only student input that has ever been considered is that of the Commerce Students Association (CSA).

The CSA is very effective in many of the things it does, but one thing it seldom does effectively is oppose the Administration. As a result, CSA representatives to C.U.S.A.'s Departmental Council rushed to the defence of their Faculty last year, when the change was originally announced, while other students attacked the Administration of the Faculty and the students who appeared to be blindly following their Dean.

This year C.U.S.A. conducted a survey of slightly over 800 commerce students asking them what they thought of the change of the summer session. Some students were indifferent, about 20%

were in favour of the change, but 75% were opposed.

The CSA is still defending its faculty, at least in public, and in fact its leaders were furious when they found out about the possible discussion at Faculty Council on the subject. The meeting scheduled for January 14 could have been used for this but it was cancelled by the steering committee which, after a two hour meeting, decided that there was nothing that had to be discussed.

As it stands now, the summer session will be ten weeks, if only because changing it back at this time would be as bad as the original proposed change around this time last year.

While it can, and has, been argued that the change might improve the academic quality of the summer courses, the fact remains that students have expressed dissatisfaction with the change on the grounds that concurrencies will only be allowed for graduating students and that the change will make it more difficult to find summer jobs.

The Dean of Commerce says that a course cannot be taught properly in a four-and-a-half week session, and this is not an unreasonable argument. But what is unreasonable is the paternalistic attitude of the Commerce Faculty and the failure of the CSA to listen to their own membership.

CUSA Elections

Do you want to know more about your presidential candidates? Are you curious as to the arguments surrounding the referendum question? Do you want more election info?

If you answered "yes" to any of the above, pick up the special election issue of *Solecism* on the stands today. Watch for it.



About This Newsletter

Solecism is an open forum newsletter for students in the Concordia University community, published by the Concordia University Students' Association (CUSA). Stories and/or comments are encouraged and should be addressed to the editor, Paul Gott, c/o CUSA's Sir George offices, room 639, the Hall Building.

All submissions are published subject to normal editorial discretion.

The ideas expressed, and articles published, in *Solecism* do not necessarily represent the policies or views of CUSA.

Students Support Security

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"be moved out of the Hall building of the Campus since this (drug problem) works against the academic atmosphere of the school."

"This was not really a concrete, thought-out recommendation," suggests Mardini, "I do not believe that eliminating Reggie's would eliminate the problem. The dealers were originally in the sixth floor lounge. It was cleaned out and they moved to Reggie's. When Reggie's was cleared out last summer, they moved to the caf and the sixth floor. If you eliminate Reggie's, the drugs would be left behind."

A real solution, claims Mardini, would be to have better coordination between the university administration and security staff.

"The administration must get involved. They issue ID cards with absolutely no control, and if a student has an ID there's nothing security can do short of having him arrested. Right now, there probably are people renting space to deal for

\$57.50 (the price of one course)." says Mardini.

Since the poll was conducted, there has been a major reduction in the visibility of the dealers at Reggie's and a similar reduction in the visibility of security, says Mardini.

"Until recently it was a big problem. We still have a problem, but it's not as large or as visible. There has been a tremendous improvement, but we could do more," he says.

Mardini claims that the Pub has cleaned itself out since the drug problem was first publicized and that its reputation as a 'hive' for dealers is undeserved.

"Some people still say that Reggie's draws the dealers. I don't believe that, and Reggie's staff doesn't believe that," he says, "There's no smoking done in the Pub now and the dealing is almost non-existent. The staff is not out to get any dealers in trouble, its sole concern is not to have drugs dealt or used in the Pub. We don't want to get any more involved than that."